

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims and further consideration of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected in view of a combination of Dvorak (U.S. Pat. No. 5,779,161), Ossian et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,619) and Williams (U.S. Pat. No. 5,190,225). Claim 11 is objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 11 has been amended to be in independent form to include the limitations of the claims 1 and 9, the claims from which it depends. Claim 11 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 1-10 and 12, which are all dependent upon at least the combination of Dvorak and Ossian et al. are respectfully traversed. The invention was conceived as a way to help people, particularly elderly people, to melt snow and ice from porches and walkways at their homes, although the invention is certainly not limited to this particular use. To this end, the invention comprises a hand-portable spreader for blowing particles of material with an air stream that melt ice or snow. The device includes a grip so as to be hand-portable, a storage chamber which holds particles which melt ice or snow, an air blower which is affixed to the top of the storage chamber which generates an air stream that carries the particles from the storage chamber through an orifice to an air conduit, and a nozzle from which the air stream and particles are ejected at a velocity which is sufficient to carry the particles from the nozzle for depositing the particles on ice or snow to be melted.

Claim 1 recites the limitation of "a grip," which emphasize the fact that the invention is directed to a hand-portable device. Neither the Dvorak or the Ossian et al. references disclose a hand held blower having a grip. The Examiner states that because the invention is directed to a dispensing

apparatus, such as a leaf blower, and that it is inherent that a "conventional leaf blower" of the type disclosed by Dvorak have a grip, the Dvorak reference discloses a grip. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertions.

Dvorak does not disclose in any of its figures or in its description of the invention, a grip. In fact, from the figures, the dispensing apparatus of Dvorak appears to be the type of apparatus that is mounted onto a wheeled support structure rather than being hand held. Also, the Applicant disagrees with the initial assumptions made by the Examiner - that Dvorak discloses a "conventional" leaf blower. Dvorak is directed to a dispensing apparatus, and merely mentions that it has a "blower, such as a leaf blower" (see Abstract). Therefore, although Dvorak has a component which acts to blow particles, but is not itself a leaf blower. Therefore, the Examiner's assertion that Dvorak discloses a grip because it is a convention leaf blower is flawed because Dvorak does not disclose that it is a conventional leaf blower or that it can be used as a conventional leaf blower. Therefore, it is believed that Dvorak and Ossian et al. do not disclose the grip feature in claim 1, and that claims 1-12 are allowable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and remarks, entry of this Amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance of the claims 1-12 are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney, so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

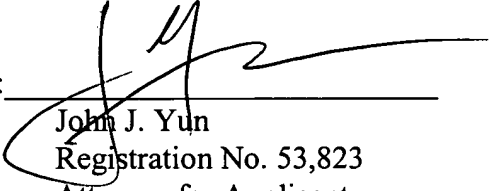
In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicants hereby petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above. Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (103286-00101).

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Respectfully submitted,

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